



AREA SUPPORT GROUP-KUWAIT

**Welcome Packet
and
Tour Information**



**AREA SUPPORT GROUP-KUWAIT
CAMP ARIFJAN, KUWAIT**

Welcome Packet and Tour Information

WARNING:

Dissemination and use of this publication is restricted to official military and government personnel from the United States of America, Kuwait, and other countries as required and designated for support of coalition operations.

AREA SUPPORT GROUP-KUWAIT WELCOME PACKET AND TOUR INFORMATION

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INTRODUCTION

Congratulations on your assignment and welcome to Kuwait and Camp Arifjan. We are U.S. Army Area Support Group-Kuwait (ASG-KU), a major subordinate command of United States Army Forces Central Command (USARCENT) established to provide command and control for assigned forces; base operations support to fixed facilities; training support for rotational forces; and Title 10 Support to Combined Forces Land Component Command (CFLCC) and the CFLCC long term stance.

ASG-KU is the command sponsoring agency for all Permanent Change of Station (PCS), Temporary Change of Station (TCS) personnel assigned or attached to ASG-KU, Temporary Duty (TDY), and Department of Defense (DoD) civilians.

Each person assigned should have a sponsor. If you do not have a sponsor within 60 days of your report date, please call the ASG-KU S1 Office who will put you in contact with your sponsor. Email is an efficient and essential means of communication, so be sure to provide each other your respective email addresses. Incoming personnel may feel the need to call, but should keep in mind the time difference. The time difference is either seven or eight hours ahead of Eastern Time. This depends on whether the Continental United States (CONUS) is on Standard or Daylight Savings Time.

This information packet is designed to give special instructions and general information to get you successfully moved to Kuwait and prepared for a memorable tour. It is important to become familiar with the material in this packet and keep this information handy. You will need to refer to it as you prepare for your move to Kuwait.

Kuwait is classified as a remote and arduous tour. The tour length is restricted to 12 months restricted/unaccompanied.

We look forward to your arrival and joining a professional organization committed to excellence.

“Always Forward”



SECTION 1 UPON ASSIGNMENT TO KUWAIT

SPECIAL ASSIGNMENT INSTRUCTIONS

Medical Requirements

Personnel must have a complete medical screening prior to assignment to Kuwait. You must be worldwide deployable for this assignment.

Personnel must have proof of a current HIV test in their records.



Travel to Kuwait

The most common mode of travel to Kuwait for PCS, TCS, TDY Soldiers and Department of Defense (DoD) Civilians is by Military Contracted Civilian Flights called Rotator Flights.

Entry into Kuwait

Active duty Soldiers and DoD Civilians arriving in Kuwait are not required to have a passport and can enter on their Military Identification Card; however, it is recommended that personnel obtain a blue colored tourist passport



Household Goods/Unaccompanied Baggage (HHG/UB)

PCS personnel are authorized to ship unaccompanied

baggage based upon their rank. The UB weight allowance for unaccompanied enlisted personnel is 500 pounds; officers up to the grade of LTC is 600 pounds; COL and above is 1,000 pounds; and civilian personnel is 350 pounds. **No furniture.**

ALL AUTHORIZATIONS MUST BE LISTED ON YOUR ORDERS.

Enough clothing should be carried with you to last approximately two months. Once household goods arrive, one to two weeks is required to clear customs.

Shipping Prohibitions

Importation of pork products, sexually explicit material, weapons or components of weapons, firearms, ammunition, alcohol, and foodstuffs containing alcohol is prohibited. Importation of wine and beer making kits and equipment may result in confiscation and lengthy delay in releasing of HHG/HB from Kuwaiti customs.

Pets

Shipping of pets is not authorized.

Privately Owned Vehicle (POV)

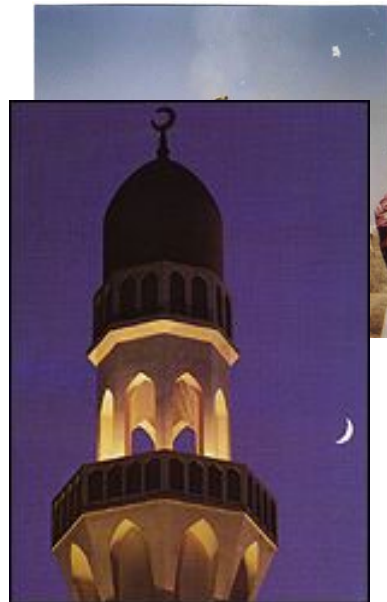
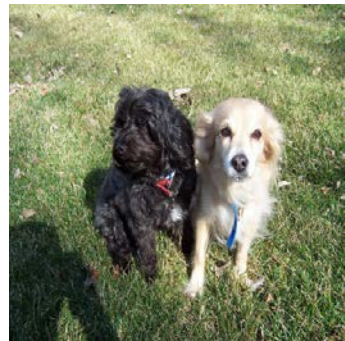
Shipment of a POV is not authorized.

Driver's License

A valid stateside driving permit is required upon entry into Kuwait. The Government of Kuwait does not accept expired driver's licenses even though some U.S. states accept a service member's expired license until separation from the service.

Security Clearances

Due to the nature of our mission and the need to access and use the government computer system, all U.S. Soldiers and DoD civilians must have a favorable background investigation completed prior to coming to Kuwait. This investigation cannot be greater than nine (9) years old. Talk with your sponsor about your required clearance level, or you may contact the ASG-KU S2 directly for information.



POINTS OF CONTACT

The Country code for commercial calls to Kuwait is 965.

ASG-KU S1

DSN 318-430-2113 OIC/ 4087 NCOIC

ASG-KU Directorate of Host Nation Affairs:

DSN 318-430-2288 / 2291 Fax 318-430-2359

Commercial (965) 389-2288 / 2291

24-hr telephone (965) 944-1967

Email: Director.cmo@arifjan.arcent.army.mil

Mailing address:

HHC. ASG-KU

ATTN: Host Nation

APO AE 09366

Camp Arifjan Operator

DSN 318-430-1110

Civilian Personnel Office

DSN 318-430-2439

ASG-KU Emergency Operations Center

DSN 318-430-2308/2162

Passport and Visa Office

DSN 318-430-2418

ASG-KU Housing

DSN 318-430-2428

Camp Arifjan Provost Marshall

DSN 318-430-1343

HHC, ASG-KU

DSN 318-430-1447/1446

Business Hours and Phone Listing

SECTION	BLDG	HOURS	PHONE NUMBER
HHC ORDERLY ROOM	BLDG 144	0830 – 1700 DAILY	430-1440/1153
MEDICAL CLINIC	BLDG 179	1300 – 1500 MON - TUE	430-1798
	<u>SICK-CALL: MON-FRI 0730-1100 Hours; SAT-SUN 0730-0900</u> <u>EMERGENCIES/ACUTE CARE: 0700-2300</u> <u>MEDICAL RECORDS IN-PROCESSING: SUN-SAT: 0730-1500</u> <u>IMMUNIZATIONS: MON-FRI 0730-1100 & 1300-1530;</u> <u>SAT-SUN: 0800-1000 Located in Room 8</u>		
DENTAL CLINIC	BLDG 169	IN-PROCESSING: (RM 45) 0730 – 1530 MON - SAT * * * * * REG BUSINESS 0730 – 1600 MON – FRI 0730-1000 SAT * * * * * SICK CALL 0730-1000 MON-SAT	430-1691
FINANCE	ZONE 1 PX ACROSS FROM LIBRARY	0900 – 1600 MON – SAT 1300 – 1600 SUN	430-1340/3213
HOUSING OFFICE	BLDG 149	24-HOURS	430-3115 430-3112
CIF	BLDG 336	0800-1700 SAT – WED 0800 - 1445 THURS	430-3226/3262
GYM	BLDG 130	24-HOURS	430-1302
CHAPEL	BLDG 148 ZONE 1	0800 – 2100 DAILY	430-1364
S-6	BLDG 216	0900 – 1800 MON WED-FRI 0830 – 1800 TUE-THURS	430-2302 OIC 430-5153 NCOIC

SECTION	BLDG	HOURS	PHONE NUMBER
EDUCATION CENTER	BLDG 159	0700 – 1800 SUN – FRI COMPUTER LAB ONLY 0700-1700 SAT	430-1322
INSTALLATION TRANSPORTATION OFFICE	BLDG 169	0600 – 1700 SAT – TUES 0600 – 1700 WED 0600 – 1500 THUR FRI CLOSED 1130 – 1230 CLOSED FOR LUNCH	430-1462 Commercial 011-965-389- 1462 FAX 011-965-389- 1468
S2	BLDG 216	0900-1700 THUR-TUE	430-3692/3677
RESOURCE MANAGEMENT	BLDG 333	0800 – 1630 DAILY	430-2392

RECOMMENDED ITEMS TO BRING TO KUWAIT

Kuwait is a very modern country where almost anything can be found. However, it may take a lot of searching to find certain items, and others may be expensive. Listed by category are exceptionally expensive and/or hard to find items you may want to purchase and ship in your UB or HHG.

Household Items (Mainly apply for civilians)

- Pots, pans, dishes, silverware, etc. (Optional only for civilians)
- Linens and towels (to include comforters, blankets and bed spreads)
- Special preferred cleaning items (hardware only)
- Blender, small kitchen appliances
- Sewing supplies, patterns, and lace hem tape
- Mail order catalogs
- Pictures and wall decor
- Small step ladder (Optional only for civilians)

If you bring small appliances to Kuwait, try to obtain items that are dual voltage or operate on 240 volts, 50/60 hertz. The dual hertz (cycles) rating allows you to operate items on provided step-down transformers without damage. For those appliances that have motors rated at 60 hertz, operating the unit on Kuwait power will cause the motor to run slower. This also means that any device with an internal battery will not charge properly if it is rated

at only 60 hertz. Tape decks and stereos manufactured for the U.S. market that are rated 110/220 volts, 50/60 cycles, will work fine in Kuwait. Standard U.S. television sets will not receive Middle East stations, but can be used in conjunction with a DVD player since Camp Arifjan video rentals are U.S. standard, not PAL. Computers and portable telephones should be used in conjunction with a good surge protector as there are power fluctuations due to the extreme heat, particularly when operating devices rated at 120 volts and 50-60 cycles which are operated on the 220 to 120 volt step-down transformers. It is recommended that you do not bring 120 volt items unless the label says they can operate at 120-240 volt.

Personal Health and Hygiene Items

- Prescriptions (Embassy/Camp Arifjan have limited pharmacies)
- Cosmetics and make-up (available, but not competitive with U.S. prices)
- Acne/problem skin scrubs and special soaps (available, but expensive)
- First aid kit
- Hair care products, especially preferred brands
- Contact lens products



Miscellaneous

- Shoes: dress and casual, at least two pairs of men/women sandals
- Socks and stockings
- Dress clothing—minimize synthetic fabrics due to hot weather
- Swim wear (one piece)
- Raincoat or umbrella
- Light jacket
- Uniform accessories (rank, awards, branch insignia...)

Off-Duty Activities

Due to the limited variety and quantity of off-duty diversions, we emphasize the importance of sports activities, hobbies, arts, and crafts. You should consider bringing equipment and supplies to support your interests since local availability may be limited and prices high. The following is a partial list for consideration:

- Arts and crafts of all types
- CDs
- Videos
- Books: encyclopedia, dictionary, paperbacks, etc.

SECTION 2 UPON ARRIVAL

THINGS TO DO WHEN YOU ARRIVE

When you arrive in Kuwait, your sponsor will meet you at the airport. If you are not met, please contact the ASG-KU Emergency Operations Center. To ensure you are properly met, keep your sponsor updated on your travel itinerary, to include the airline, flight number, and arrival time. Don't forget to **show only your military ID**. **Do not** show your passports as it can confuse the immigration officials and cause delays if they have to deal with different kinds of immigration documents.



Upon arrival at Camp Arifjan, you must sign in and in-process through S1, Personnel Services Section (PSS). Immediately after this is completed, all Soldiers will report to the orderly room and must have in their possession a copy of assignment orders, last evaluation report (OER/NCOER), physical fitness score card, and weapons card. Orderly room personnel will schedule the newcomers briefing with the Commander and First Sergeant.

Your sponsor will be with you to assist with any complications that you may encounter. In-processing will be accomplished in accordance with the HHC, ASG-KU in-processing checklist. Prior to the issuing of equipment, all personnel must submit the following to the NBC Room: ID card, in processing sheet and a copy of orders assigning them to the unit.

HOUSING



Types of Housing

Unaccompanied Personnel Housing (UPH). Housing built for non-contingency purposes using Defense Cooperation Agreement funds to house unaccompanied military and DA Civilian personnel.

Contingency Housing (CH). Housing purposely constructed to support personnel assigned to an installation due to contingency operations.

Categories of personnel authorized housing in the ASG-KU AOR

Permanent Party Personnel (PP). Military and DoD Civilian employees assigned to the ASG-KU AOR in a PCS status. The PCS orders must originate from a service component or equivalent and in general authorize shipment/storage of HHGs.

Unaccompanied Personnel (UP). Military personnel and DoD Civilians who either have no Family members or are not accompanied by Family members.

Contingency Personnel (CP). Military and DoD Civilians personnel assigned to or with duty at a specific camp in support of contingency operations.

Temporary Change of Station (TCS). Individuals on Temporary Change of Station orders assigned to that specific location normally in excess of 30 days.

Temporary Transient (TT). Units or individuals that are deploying, redeploying, conducting RSOI activities or performing training missions for a period less than six months.

- Incoming personnel may be put on a waiting list for the appropriate billeting.
- An individual's eligibility date is determined the date the person departed his or her last permanent duty station, or the date of arrival.



MEDICAL and DENTAL SERVICES

Camp Arifjan Medical Clinic. The Camp Arifjan Clinic provides pharmacy support. However, It is recommended that you bring a six-month supply of regularly prescribed medication with you. Check with your sponsor to ensure you can readily refill a prescription. Do not pack medication with your HHG, as the heat in transit can diminish the effectiveness of the medicine.

Medical Evacuation Depending on the nature of the medical problem, individuals may be sent to U.S. military medical facilities in Europe for treatment.

Dental Clinic. Camp Arifjan has a six chair dental facility which opened in October 2005. The clinic is staffed with four general dentists and one oral and maxillofacial surgeon. Limited comprehensive care i.e., exams, cleaning, fillings, root canals, extractions, and emergency treatment is available to all beneficiaries with priority of care to active duty military personnel. The clinic is located directly behind the medical clinic in Bldg 169. The clinic is open MON-SAT from 0730 to 1630 hours. For treatment of dental emergencies during non-duty hours report to the acute care clinic located adjacent the medical clinic. The appointment desk for the Camp Arifjan Dental Clinic can be reached at DSN 430-1691. Specialty care not available at the clinic can be obtained by referral from the ASG-KU Dental Surgeon.

Civilian Contractors. Emergency dental care only will be provided for civilian contractors. Emergency care is defined as that care which a reasonable person believes constitutes a condition or may result in a condition that requires or may require immediate medical attention. Routine dental care is not authorized and will not be provided by military dental clinics to civilian contractors unless specifically authorized in their individual contract. The Contracting Office Representative (COR) can define that level of care.



SECTION 3

DURING YOUR ASSIGNMENT

KUWAIT ORIENTATION

While this orientation provides a very brief overview of Kuwait, there are many internet sites which can better familiarize you with the Arab Culture. All military personnel and command dependents must complete the Arab Culture Training Course at Camp Arifjan. Directorate of Host Nation Affairs is available to assist with scheduling.

Geographical Location and Demographics

The most northerly of the Arabian Gulf states (called the Persian Gulf by Iranians but always Arabian Gulf when speaking to Arabs), the State of Kuwait is located just south of the joint mouth of the Euphrates and Tigris rivers. Kuwait borders Iraq to the north and west, Saudi Arabia to the south, and the Arabian Gulf to the east. Its area covers only 6,880 square miles (about the size of New Jersey) and the land is entirely arid or semi-arid. Kuwait has no fresh and only occasionally brackish water sources and receives about six inches of rainfall annually.



Kuwait is a Muslim nation, with a court system based on a combination of Civil and Islamic Law. Islam is the state religion and the workweek is from Saturday through Wednesday.



Arabic is the official language, however, English is taught in public schools and widely spoken. Western influences combined with traditional customs produce a society with elements of both cultures. Traditional ways of life have recently resurged among many Kuwaitis and is often reflected in their dress.

The discovery of Kuwait's enormous oil reserves resulted in the transformation of Kuwait from a tribal society to a modern welfare state, with one of the highest per capita incomes in the world. Kuwaiti citizens share this wealth through government-sponsored programs providing free housing, medical treatment, and education. Since the 1950's education has been patterned after Western Systems and approximately 75 percent of Kuwait's people are literate. Women, as well as men, receive a free education through the university level.

History

Kuwait's history developed through its location between the sea and the desert. Desert nomads originally settled Kuwait by moving from Saudi Arabia in the mid-18th century. Since agriculture was impractical, a trade-based economy was soon established. Due to Kuwait's location on the Gulf, the focus was on fishing, pearl diving, and shipbuilding. During the 18th and 19th centuries, Kuwait became one of the busiest harbors in the Gulf area.

In 1899 Sheik Mubarak Al-Sabah signed an agreement with the British Government to place Kuwait under British protection whereby Britain handled Kuwait's foreign affairs. The world at large first became aware of Kuwait in the early 1950's when oil from Kuwait began to reach Europe. Oil revenues changed Kuwait from a little-known port on the Arabian Gulf to one of the richest countries in the world. By mutual agreement with Britain in 1961, Kuwait reassumed control of its own foreign affairs and became fully independent with membership in the United Nations by 1963. In 1963, the U.S. Consulate, which was in existence since 1951, was raised to Embassy status.



By the late 80's, Kuwait had become an example of a traditional society that advanced rapidly into the 20th century because of its oil wealth. The nation's capital, Kuwait City, began as a fortified town surrounded by a mud wall for protection against raiding tribes. Today the city has high-rise buildings, two busy ports, and stores that sell all the latest name brand products.

In July 1990, Iraq accused Kuwait of stealing petroleum from a disputed oil field and producing too much petroleum; they massed forces along the border. On August 2, after talks between the two countries had broken down, Iraq invaded Kuwait, overran Kuwait City, and overthrew the government. Less than a week later Iraq annexed Kuwait, subsequently closing the borders of both countries.

The United States and coalition allies rushed troops to the Saudi Arabia-Iraq border. Air strikes on Baghdad began on 16 January 1991, and continued, along with a ground campaign. Kuwait was liberated on 26 February 1991. Much of Kuwait City had been damaged by the Iraqi troops and thousands of citizens were killed or taken hostage.

Politics.

Kuwait is a constitutional monarchy ruled by the Al-Sabah family. Executive power is centered on the Amir and is delegated to the heads of the ministries through the Prime Minister, who is also the Crown Prince and presides over the Council of Ministers.

The drafting of Kuwait's constitution was encouraged and guided by the late Amir Abdullah Al-Salem Al-Sabah who, formerly with his family, exclusively held power. The constitution, which was revised in 1976, provides for an elected national assembly of parliament. There are 25 districts in Kuwait and each district elects two members who serve 4-year terms.

The present Amir of Kuwait is HH Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, fourth son of the late Sheikh Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah. He took oath in a special session after the death of the late Amir HH Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, thus becoming Kuwait's 15th Amir.



Economy

The Kuwait economy is heavily dependent on its sizable oil revenue. Petroleum was first discovered in 1936 by a joint Gulf-British Petroleum concession (the Kuwait Oil Company) and was initially tapped in 1946. The Kuwait Oil Company (now part of the Kuwait Petroleum Corporation, which unifies all government-owned companies in the petroleum sector) is the major producer of crude oil in Kuwait, and until 1974, was owned by Gulf and British Petroleum. The Kuwait government took over full ownership of the company in 1975.



Kuwait has a Gross National Product (GNP) of \$25 billion per year with a GNP per capita of \$23,500. There are not many sources of income for Kuwait, other than petroleum production, petrochemical industries, and income from foreign investments. The foreign investments come from a fund that is based upon 10% of oil revenues. The oil reserves of Kuwait are estimated to be around 10% of the world total, and will at the present level of

extraction last for 150 more years. Industries of Kuwait are connected to petroleum, and Kuwait is refining its own oil. Agriculture and food production are limited, and make up less than 2% of GNP. Fishing is becoming more and more important, and is at the level of 9,000 tons annually.

The infrastructure in the eastern part of Kuwait is well developed and comprises 4,700 km of roads, and an international airport near Kuwait City. There are eight newspapers in Kuwait: six Arabic and two English. There are also a number of foreign periodicals. Kuwait Television has four channels: one in Arabic, one in English, one sports channel, and one 24-Hour Channel. There is also the Kuwait Satellite Channel which began transmission on 4 July 1992.

In addition, there are Arabic radio stations, an English-speaking FM radio station, and the U.S. Armed Forces radio. There are also broadcasts from the BBC World Service and Voice of America. Telecommunications are very advanced and available to the public.

Crime

The crime rate in Kuwait is moderate. Many weapons left over from the 1991 Gulf War remain in the hands of the populace and shooting incidents have occurred. Both physical and verbal harassment of women can be a problem. The loss or theft of a U.S. passport abroad should be reported immediately to local police, ASG-Kuwait Directorate of Host Nation Affairs, and the U.S. Embassy. Useful information on safeguarding valuables, protecting personal security, and other matters while traveling abroad is provided in the Department of State pamphlets, "A Safe Trip Abroad" and "Tips for Travelers to the Middle East and North Africa." They are available from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402.

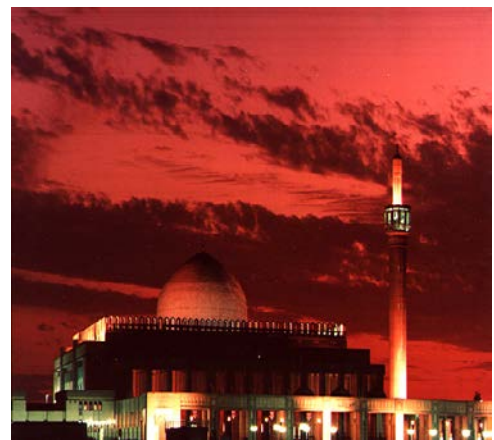


U.S. citizens are subject to the laws of the country in which they are traveling. Penalties for possession, use, or dealing in illegal drugs, alcohol, or pornography are severe, and convicted offenders can expect jail sentences and fines. Religious proselytizing by non-Muslims is not permitted.

Kuwait is considered a high threat area. Besides the military threat, terrorist incidents against Kuwaiti and American targets have occurred in the past. The ASG-Kuwait S2 can supply detailed information in on reducing the risk of becoming a target of a terrorist attack in Kuwait.

Religion.

The constitution of Kuwait states that the religion of the state is Islam, and Islamic law is the main source of legislation. Islam (submission to Allah) is a complete way of life that is set forth in detail in the Quran and Hadith. The Quran is the compiled revelations of Allah to the Prophet Mohammed. While the Hadith is a collection of the informal sayings of the prophet, not divinely inspired, it is still a guide for men to follow.



The Quran declares the "Five Pillars" of Islam as:

- Profession of the faith, "There is no God but Allah and Mohammed is His prophet"
- Prayer (five times daily)
- Pilgrimage to Mecca; every believer who can possibly afford it should make at least one pilgrimage in their lifetime
- Fasting, especially during the month of Ramadan
- Giving of alms

In the traditional Muslim community, secular and religious (spiritual) law are one and the same, and the "Shari'ah" (The Way of Life) spells out all those beliefs, rituals, and social/legal principles which govern men's lives. The Muslim's place of worship is a Mosque, of which there are over 500 in Kuwait. Five times a day the men are called to prayer. The faithful either go to the Mosque, or pray where they are - in offices, in shops, or



at home. They wash, remove their shoes, and kneel on their prayer carpets always facing towards Mecca. Friday is the weekly Holy Day, on which men go to the Mosque and worship. Muslims hold a great respect for Christianity. Thus westerners will be expected to show as much respect for Islam and its religious holidays as the Muslims do for Christianity. With the exception of a handful of naturalized Christian families of Iraqi and Palestinian origin, all

Kuwaitis are Muslim. Of these, roughly 80% adhere to the Sunni (Orthodox) branch of Islam, as does the ruling family. The remaining 20%, largely of Iranian and Iraqi origins are of the Shi'a sect. While the majority of Arabs in Kuwait are Sunni Muslims, significant numbers of the resident Lebanese, Syrians, and Palestinians are of Christian background, as are the majority of the Indian community. The total Christian population of Kuwait is estimated at 50,000. There is complete freedom of worship in Kuwait.

The religious holidays in the Islamic world are not determined by the solar (Gregorian) calendar, but by the lunar (highti) calendar. The solar calendar is fixed; that is, a month falls at the same time during every year. February is always in the winter, July always in the summer. The lunar calendar year, however, is 11 days shorter than the solar year. Thus, the holidays that are fixed to certain days in the solar calendar are not correspondingly fixed to certain days in the lunar calendar.



RELIGIOUS SERVICES

In addition to the plentiful Islamic services, Catholic and Protestant services are also held in Kuwait. Camp Arifjan Chapels provide religious services offering Catholic, Protestant (Contemporary, Lutheran, Gospel, Traditional), Latter Day Saints, and Jewish under the direction of a lay-leader. Various Bible Studies and RCIA classes are held for adults. A schedule of these services can be obtained at the Zone 1 Chapel, BLDG 148 or by calling commercial 011-965-389-1364.

Roman Catholic services are held daily in Kuwait City and weekly in Ahmadi, which is south of Kuwait City. The Anglican Church also hosts Friday and Sunday services in Kuwait City and Ahmadi. Bible Study and fellowship groups are also available for adults.

The National Evangelical Church of Kuwait is located on Arabian Gulf Street near downtown Kuwait.



NATIONAL EVANGELICAL CHURCH OF KUWAIT (NECK) English Language Congregation (ELC)

Christian work started in Kuwait in 1910, when the Arabian Medical Mission of the Reformed Church in America opened a clinic here. The clinic gave way first to a Men's Hospital and then also one for women. The discovery of oil made this work unnecessary, and the hospitals were closed down in 1967. By then the church was well established, and consisted of three language congregations: Arabic, English and Malayalam. These three constitute the National Evangelical Church in Kuwait (NECK).

Over the years other congregations were founded, but not as a part of the NECK. At the present, 55 congregations hold regular worship services on this compound, in addition to three Christian organizations which also hold weekly meetings.

The English Language Congregation (ELC) was formally established as a non-denominational congregation separate from the mission in 1962. In the last 13 years it has grown from a small group to a congregation of over 2000 members. Over 50 nationalities are represented in the congregation. There are presently 9 weekly worship services for the ELC.

NECK has services mainly in English, Arabic, Tagalong, Chinese, Korean, Indian languages of Hindi, Tamil, Malayalam, Marathi, Konkani, Kannada and Telugu; as well as Indonesian, Nepali, Sinhala & Ethiopian languages.

CAMP ARIFJAN CHAPEL SERVICES

Camp Arifjan Chaplains and assistants are available for counseling and offer help for all persons regardless of religious affiliation or belief. Chaplains provide important rites, instruction and spiritual insight for those who seek it in their faith communities. Religious services provided are Roman Catholic; Protestant; Traditional; General; Spanish; Gospel; Latter Day Saints; Episcopal/Lutheran, Jewish Prayer Service and Islam Jumu'ah. Other services available are Bible Study, Fellowships and Choirs as well as special services and events. Contact the Zone 1 Chapel at DSN 430-1364 for a schedule of services.

MORALE, WELFARE, and RECREATION (MWR)



The ASG-KU MWR program on Camp Arifjan is fairly active. The services offered include a pool, gymnasium offering basketball, volleyball, racquetball, aerobics, weightlifting, half marathons, and 5 K Runs.

Periodically, there are scheduled MWR events, such as Salsa dancing, country line dancing, concerts, USO shows, as well as, ethnic and holiday observances.





The Community Centers on Camp Arifjan offer billiards, foosball, video games, a huge screen television, and theatres showing major new movies. A full sized library located in Bldg 134, Zone 1, has internet access, magazines, audio/visual, free DVD checkout, and free book check out for your personal reading pleasure. There is ALSO MWR support for families through the U.S. Embassy.

Arabic Rules of Thumb

Do always ask for advice if you aren't sure how to behave in a certain situation. Kuwaiti colleagues and longtime residents are always willing to help.

Do be patient. Appointments and requests may be delayed by more pressing and higher priority demands.



Do not expect paperwork and routine matters to be accomplished immediately. The bureaucratic process can be time-consuming, but it does, usually, give results. It might be helpful to keep in touch with your supervisor, colleagues, or the office you are dealing with, when you find yourself waiting what you might consider an unreasonable amount of time. Possibly the information, papers, or money are available or ready, but no one has notified you.

Do expect Arabs to sit, talk, and stand closer than people in the West. What Westerners consider an intimate distance is only social, and friendly, here.



Do expect to be touched more frequently by members of the same sex. This is an expression of friendship.

Do not launch immediately into your personal concerns when meeting the person who can deal with them. This is considered impolitely abrupt. Expect to share in lengthy greetings and light conversation.

Do accept as normal the occasional use of influential connections to accomplish tasks more rapidly.

Do expect to shake hands much more frequently. On entering a room or meeting a group of people, it is expected that you will shake hands with everyone, except small children. On social occasions, you will probably also need to shake hands again when you leave.



Do not expect all promises or decisions to be put in writing. In some situations, you will have to accept an oral promise. This is partly because the written word carries a weight of meaning greater than Westerners are accustomed to.

Do not resort to writing in the event of a dispute or complaint, unless the other party has refused to discuss the matter or you have exhausted other oral means of resolving the problem. A complaint or dispute in writing is a possible source of embarrassment.

Do not be surprised at being given an indirect answer of insha' Allah (God willing). Insha' Allah usually indicates the good intentions of the speaker.

Do not lose your temper publicly and loudly and do not publicly reprimand or embarrass anyone. This will cause the subject of your anger or displeasure to lose face in a way that can only be recouped by ensuring that you publicly lose more face than he already has.



Do be aware of restrictions during Ramadan. During the month of Ramadan, which is approximately one month of nationwide fasting once a year, certain forms of public behavior are expected to be followed whether or not you are a Muslim. No eating, drinking, chewing gum, or smoking is allowed by law in public during daylight hours. If you are not fasting as a Muslim, you must be sure you do these things in the privacy of your own home. Exceptions are made only for young children. Take note of the change in hours of government offices, businesses, television programs, etc. during this month.

Do dress appropriately on the job. First of all, because Kuwait is an Islamic country, there are certain types of dress that should be avoided, especially if you are an official guest of the government. In general, modest dress is appropriate. Men and women

should dress in a way that is appropriate to the professional positions they hold.

Do avoid some subjects in public. Certain topics are generally not considered appropriate or acceptable for discussion in public. These may include political issues, religion, alcohol, total women's liberation, abortion, and male-female relationships, such as dating. Many people are very sensitive about these topics, and problems could arise should you try to discuss them.

Units of Measure

Kuwait uses metric units of measure. Dry weight units are milligrams, grams, and kilograms; volume units are milliliters, liters and medical items are sometimes cubic centimeters; linear measure units are millimeters, centimeters, meters, and kilometers; and temperature units are degrees centigrade (Kuwait does not use the newer term - Celsius). Time is expressed using the 24-hour clock system.

Weather

During the months of May to September, daily temperatures average between 43-54 degrees Centigrade (110-130 degrees Fahrenheit). During September and October, temperatures decrease slightly, but the humidity can reach high levels. From November to February, temperatures can fall to three degrees Centigrade (37 degrees Fahrenheit) or below, especially when the sun is down. From March to May is generally quite pleasant. Although the average yearly rainfall is approximately six inches (15cm) a year, Kuwait receives about 7-10cm (3-4 inches) of rain during November and December alone. When the wind blows, it can be uncomfortable and fairly brisk, and from time to time, cause sandstorms.



Currency

The Kuwait Dinar (KD) is the unit of currency, with one KD equal to 1000 fils. Currency notes are written in x.xxx KD format and typical paper denominations are 1/4 KD, 1/2 KD, 1 KD, 5 KD, 10 KD and 20 KD. While the exchange rate with U.S. currency varies, 1.000 KD is roughly equal to \$3.40. There are ATMs available on base and there are finance offices that will cash personal checks and convert U.S. currency to Kuwait Dinars.

Miscellaneous: Although the water in Kuwait is potable, families are advised to drink bottled water. Also, due to bovine disorders in Europe, families should purchase all beef products from the Arifjan PX, downtown from the Kuwait Sultan Center or Kuwait City Center. These establishments sell American or Australian beef products.

Again, welcome and we wish you a successful tour of duty in Kuwait.

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